



*Emerging Issues Subcommittee*  
Meeting Minutes  
June 12, 2008

**Summary**

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Emerging Issues Subcommittee Members in Attendance (8):

Richard Porter (Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Vital Statistics)  
David Choate, proxy Co-Chair (proxy for Charles Katz, Arizona State University, Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network)  
Meena Shahi (Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services)  
Christina Cutshaw (University of Arizona)—via conference call  
Judith Fritsch (Department of Economic Security, Community Partnerships and Innovative Practices)—via conference call  
Wendy Wolfersteig (Arizona State University, Arizona Prevention Resource Center)  
Wanda LeClere MacDonald (Navajo Behavioral Health Services, Navajo Nation)  
Phillip Stevenson (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)

Emerging Issues Subcommittee Members Absent (7):

Alida Montiel (Inter Tribal Council of Arizona)  
Michelle Anderson (Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections)  
Dennis Embry, Chair (PAXIS Institute)  
Joan McNamara (Pima County/Tucson Commission on Drug Addiction and Prevention, Compass Health Care)  
Jerry Boehm (Arizona Council of Human Service Providers)  
Jody Sekerak (Indian Health Services)  
John Morris (Yavapai County Drug Courts)

Governor's Office Staff (1):

Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF)

Public (4):

Officer Bobbie Moreland (Phoenix Police Department)  
Wayne Goulet (Arizona Department of Health Services)  
Gordon South (Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Fellow)  
Michelle Neitch, (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)



**Call to Order** was made by David Choate at 1:05 p.m. after a quorum was noted.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

- David Choate asked the attendees and guests present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- As members had already provided feedback/corrections on the meeting minutes via e-mail, Wendy Wolfersteig motioned for an acceptance of the May, 2008 meeting minutes pending the submitted changes; Richard Porter seconded the motion. The amended meeting minutes were approved with no dissenters.

### **Announcements**

- Meena Shahi informed the group that the MyFest Conference had over 1,000 attendees; 600 surveys were handed out at the event, the entire amount available for distribution.
  - Feedback from the event will be provided when analyses are completed.
  - Youth attending the conference completed a permission slip and indicated whether they would be willing to participate in a focus group.
    - Meena Shahi will follow up with any participants who indicated such interest.
- Michelle Neitch informed the group that the one-pager on prescription drug abuse completed by ACJC is now available on the ACJC website (<http://www.azcjc.gov>). She also indicated that all schools (with the exception of one) had returned their completed Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) forms; data from the 2008 AYS would likely be available by the end of summer/beginning of fall.
- Jeanne Blackburn indicated that the new members in the room represented the treatment provider voice not previously at the table and the police department, also previously absent from the group. She also noted that an invitation would be forthcoming to a School Resource Officer and a member of the recovery community.
  - These member names will be vetted at the June meeting of the ASAP.

### **Update on Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group/ASAP**

- Phillip Stevenson updated the subcommittee on the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group and the ASAP.
  - The Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group had furthered their discussion about the content and format of their annual Snapshot document, including:
    - The topics/indicators/data to be included in the report, including:
      - Data from the AARIN project.
      - An update on issues that were in last year's report.
      - A focus on topical areas of importance to policymakers.
      - Consistency between the report and the executive action briefing on data-driven decision making.
      - Prescription drug abuse.
      - Substance abuse issues in Arizona and those that are emerging (i.e., an Emerging Trends chapter).
      - Inclusion of major problems that were noted in the Epi Profile.



- Behavioral health/substance use – co-occurring disorders.
- Systems change – integration of mental health and substance abuse treatment; how the mental health system has been transformed into a “seamless” behavioral health system.
  - Both inter-agency and intra-agency systems change.
- Phillip Stevenson also informed the group that the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group discussed their Executive Action Briefing on data-driven decision making at their meeting, made changes to it and added outcomes to the document.
  - Wanda MacDonald indicated that tribal data collection is an issue and noted that it would be helpful if the Snapshot report was inclusive of tribal data where available. She informed the group that the Navajo Nation does not have data capacity and solicited comments from the group on addressing the issue. She also indicated her belief that a high turnover in personnel (both on and off the reservation) is, in part, to blame for the issue. She also indicated a belief that AZ youth are comparable to youth across the nation; interviewing them would allow a determination of how closely AZ youth match their national peers in terms of substance abuse consumption and consequence patterns.
    - Group members indicated their understanding of the problem and discussed their attempts at inclusion of tribes in data collection, including expanding the number of schools with Native American students who participate in the Arizona Youth Survey.
      - Michelle Neitch informed the group that one of the barriers to including the Navajo Nation in the AYS is the fact that the tribe does its own survey of youth.
      - Phillip Stevenson indicated that ACJC attempts to collaborate with tribes (and other communities) by sharing the data they collect to help inform the policies and practices of the communities that participate.
      - Jeanne Blackburn indicated to Wanda that she would pass along her contact information to Carisa Dwyer, Tribal Liaison for the Governor’s Office.
- Phillip Stevenson reminded the group of the upcoming (June 26<sup>th</sup>) meeting of the ASAP. He also notified the members that this meeting would include visitors from the Indiana Governor’s Office as Arizona is being looked at as a model state to which other states are looking for guidance as they attempt to create infrastructures similar to ASAP.



### **Executive Action Briefing (EAB)**

- Jeanne Blackburn informed the group that the Executive Action Briefing entitled, *Emerging Issues and the State's Capacity to Respond* would be a document that helps to determine how the group proceeds, including what tasks it takes on, and should include items that the group thinks will further its goals. She indicated that after the group had offered their input and changes had been made to the document, it would be submitted by Morgan Hester, ASAP Program Administrator, to ASAP for approval at their June meeting.
- David Choate asked the group to offer their input on the document and reminded members that these efforts should not be exclusive of work that will benefit their individual agencies.
  - Each problem statement and its corresponding action steps were examined.
  - Group members discussed the items and came to agreements on wording, meanings and actions.

### **Trend Projects: Children's Bipolar Disorder and Rx Drug Abuse**

- David Choate indicated that he would like to have the group finish these projects so that others can be undertaken.
  - Michelle Neitch offered to assist Dennis Embry with completing the documents.
  - David Choate has also offered to assist in this endeavor.
  - Meena Shahi indicated that the data that were pulled for the bi-polar trend project may need to be re-pulled by the Quality Management (QM) division at ADHS because of errors in the data. She informed the group that another data request would take approximately three to four weeks for the QM division to complete.

### **Focus Group Results**

- Both David Choate and Michelle Neitch also offered to assist Dennis Embry with completing the work he has undertaken with completing the reporting of the focus group results.

### **Canary Survey**

- David Choate tasked the group with asking themselves what questions need to be on this survey and to which populations the survey needs to be directed; everyone should come to the next meeting armed with a question they would like to ask and be prepared to indicate to which population they would like to direct it.

### **Life Path Project**

- Michelle Anderson was absent. Therefore, David Choate updated the group on Michelle's announcement to the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group that the inclusion of cost data in the Life Path Project may be delayed due to concern with releasing the costs associated with these particular cases. However, releasing an overall state total cost without specifying individual agency costs in relation to treatment, etc. for individual cases remains a possibility.
- Jeanne Blackburn reminded members that due to the sensitive nature of the information on these cases, these documents are not to be released.



### **Call to Public**

- Officer Bobbie Moreland of the Phoenix Police Department informed the group that adding a School Resource Officer to the group might be problematic in that SROs are required to be on the school campus to which they are assigned during school hours, making it difficult for them to attend a monthly meeting of the Emerging Issues Subcommittee (being away from the school campus necessitates reimbursing the school for the hours that the SRO was absent); as an SRO asked to attend the Emerging Issues Subcommittee by her Lieutenant, she offered to act as a liaison between the School Resource Officers and the Emerging Issues Subcommittee, an offer that was gratefully accepted by the group members.

**Adjourn** at 3:00 p.m. with a reminder that the next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2008.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF).